

the care of the sick poor and not work a hardship either upon herself or those who may be dependent upon her. In connection with charity work let it be said that the position of the trained nurse is not the same as the members of other professions, in that her earning capacity, except from the case she is nursing, is at a standstill when she is busy. If, perchance, her service be gratuitous, she still has her living expenses to be met and these of necessity must be taken from her own pocket.

I certainly do recommend the sliding scale; one that slides up as well as down. I see no reason why a nurse should not receive a substantial fee from a wealthy patient for nursing him through, let us suppose, pneumonia. Not at the rate of \$25 a week for four or six weeks, amounting to \$100 or \$150, but \$500 or \$1000 for the case regardless of the time that it takes her to nurse him back to health. When this is done the nurse can easily afford to care for the sick poor at little or no monetary return and besides the burden of nursing the sick poor will be placed upon those able to bear it and where it belongs, the moneyed class.

LOUIE CROFT BOYD, R.N.

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#### THE NURSE AS AN ANÆSTHETIST

DEAR EDITOR: Having read the article entitled "The Nurse as an Anæsthetist" by Dr. J. M. Baldy, I ask for information as to where a nurse may receive training as an anæsthetist. A. H.

[“I have had several similar letters to the one you send me and am at a loss to know just what to say in answer.

“At present there is no place to my knowledge where a nurse or anyone else could apply for a training in anaesthesia. As we all know the whole subject of anaesthesia is in a most deplorable condition and my remarks in my address to the American Gynaecological Society last spring were made in hopes of starting an active discussion of the whole matter and of eventually bringing about an improved condition of affairs. My appeal was to the medical profession and to hospital managers, incidentally pointing out to them a good source from which to draw material, a source from which I have myself drawn most successfully, at the Gynecean Hospital.

“Reforms come slowly and I had no hopes of a different result in this case. I do not believe an immediate and active demand will be created and possibly when the reform comes, as it surely will in time, other sources than the nursing profession may be drawn upon.

“In any event I am most pleased with the interest that has been

displayed (I have heard from nurses, women physicians, hospital managers and superintendents), and hope the discussion and thought which have been awakened may eventually bear fruit in a practical way.

"Thanking you for your own interest in the matter,

"Very sincerely yours,

"J. M. BALDY."]

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#### THE SUFFRAGE

DEAR EDITOR: Having recently returned from a vacation of two months, during which time my magazines were not sent on to me, I have not until to-day seen the August and September numbers of the JOURNAL, in which the matter of woman suffrage is discussed. With my friends Miss Dock and Mrs. Kelly, I regret deeply the failure of our Associated Alumnae to support the resolution of the Woman's Suffrage League, and in thinking the matter over, I am rather inclined to conclude that their action was due more to a lack of knowledge of what woman suffrage really means and involves, than to any deep-seated conviction that it is an undesirable and unworthy cause to support, for otherwise it hardly seems credible that such action could be taken by working women (such as we nurses are) who are also thinking women, if they have given careful study to this matter, which so profoundly affects not only the welfare of women but of the race. It seems as if with full knowledge of the movements which women are now making for the enfranchisement of their sex in almost every quarter of the globe, and of the historical events which have led up to them, we should not only find ourselves endorsing the workers for woman suffrage wherever we may find them, but might feel ourselves impelled to share as far as we are able in their heroic efforts. There is one thing assuredly which we nurses must believe, and that is that we have no right to take any action in ignorance of the full issues which are involved in it, and our responsibility is often as great for rejecting as for accepting a measure. For this reason, and because of the paramount importance of the subject, I suggest that our various alumnae associations and societies of all kinds devote some time during the coming year to a real study of the subject. More than one evening might profitably be devoted to addresses from workers in this field, and our libraries might be enriched with the standard literature in this subject, beginning with John Stuart Mill's "Subjection of Women." One has only to look at the literature of the last few months to realize the full import of this matter. The great Reviews—the *Contemporary*, the *Fortnightly*, the *Nineteenth Century*—have all accorded a distinguished place to articles